

ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



Civil Legal Services : Helping Ward 8 Residents Build Better Lives

- More than 7,100 Ward 8 residents were served by Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services providers in 2022
- With a poverty rate of 30%,* many Ward 8 residents who experience civil legal problems - housing instability, family issues, domestic violence or economic insecurity - cannot afford legal help
- Having legal representation leads to better outcomes - more stable families, secure incomes, livable housing - and supports safe, thriving communities
- The need for civil legal help - already at crisis level - surged during the pandemic & continues to grow

Source: DC Kids Count

How the Access to Justice Initiative Helps



Safe, Affordable Housing

As gentrification has lowered Black homeownership rates east of the river and pushed up rents, 53% of Ward 8 households report a high housing cost burden.* Initiative grantees prevent foreclosures, help preserve affordable housing, maintain safe housing conditions, and use an intensive, in-person outreach model to stop evictions citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count



Financial Security

With a 16% unemployment rate and a median household income less than half of that for all of DC, many Ward 8 residents struggle to pay bills and meet their families' needs.* Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect their rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Health Matters



Family Stability

More than 23,000* children live in Ward 8. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, and undertaking long-term care and estate planning to help families manage unforeseen circumstances.

Source: DC Health Matters

Initiative-funded Legal Service Providers Work in Communities Throughout Ward 8

Did You Know?

- In 2022, Initiative grantees provided **legal assistance to 628 tenants threatened with eviction** in Ward 8
- In addition to legal help with housing, public benefits, family law and more, one Initiative grantee offers **wraparound services** at its Anacostia location, including social work support, medical care, and free food and clothing
- Last year, one Initiative grantee that provides **legal help to children and their families with issues including family law and housing** served 596 Ward 8 residents
- **Children's National** sites in Anacostia and at THE ARC host Initiative-funded lawyers.

To learn more: visit us at
<https://dcaccesstojustice.org> or go to
<https://www.dcbafoundation.org/>

